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marks the middle of the last molar tooth. Length of molar series, .118 m.; of true molars, .050; length anterior to molars, .061; width between last molars, .040; diameters of crown of second true molar, fore and aft, .017, transverse, .022; length of tibia, .285; of metacarpal, .221.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.¹

GEOGRAPHICAL PROFESSORSHIPS. — The Council of the Royal Geographical Society have presented a Memorial to the Oxford and Cambridge University Commissioners urging the importance of establishing Geographical Professorships. Although there is no such chair existing in any American university, and although it may be as well said of America as of England, that "there are few countries in which a high order of geographical teaching is so little encouraged," the importance of such knowledge is recognized here, and the popular interest in scientific exploration is rapidly extending. It may be well, therefore, to call the attention of our educational authorities, especially those of our new and magnificently endowed universities, such as the Johns Hopkins and the Lehigh to this address. It is given in full in the "Proceedings" of the society for April last.

The Council include in the word Geography "a compendious treatment of all the prominent conditions of a country, such as its climate, configuration, minerals, plants and animals, as well as its human inhabitants; the latter in respect not only to their race, but also to their present and past history, so far as it is intimately connected with the peculiarities of the land they inhabit." * * * * * "Among the many classes of problems that fall under these heads, it is sufficient to specify two. The one deals with the reciprocal influence of man and his surroundings, showing on the one hand the influence of external nature on race, commercial development and sociology, and, on the other, the influence of man on nature, in the clearing of forests, cultivation and drainage of the soil, introduction of new plants and domestic animals, and the like. The other problem deals with the inferences that may be drawn from the present distribution of plants and animals, in respect to the configuration of the surface of the earth in ancient times. Thus we see that the mutual relation of the objects of the different sciences is the subject of a science in itself, so that scientific geography may be defined as the study of local correlations.

"Geography thus defined does not tend in any degree to supersede the special cultivation of the separate sciences, but rather to intensify the interest already felt in each of them, by establishing connections which would otherwise be unobserved. It is through geography alone that physical, historical and political conditions are seen to be linked closely together; and it is thus that geog-

¹ Edited by ELLIS H. YARNALL, Philadelphia.

raphy claims the position of a science distinct from the rest, and of singular practical importance."

The Council also mention that in France the State has endowed seven chairs of geography besides providing instruction of a high class in the Lycées. Seven of the German universities are also provided with professors of the science, and there are three chairs in Switzerland. "The literary results of German travel at the present day seem to show that the educational advantages which are attainable in Germany have borne fruit in developing and directing the powers of observation in German travelers."

"A copious collection of maps, models, pictures and ethnological illustrations of the various lands which are the theatres of historical study, would gradually accumulate under the charge of a professor of geography, and would enable him to illustrate their configuration and scenery as well as the social character of their inhabitants with a fullness that no ordinary teacher could hope to rival. Such illustrations, it may be remarked, are consistent with the general tendency of modern instruction."

GEOGRAPHICAL NEWS.—The *Nature* states that a large amount of material for arriving at some approximately correct notion of the mean depth of the sea having been accumulated in recent years, Dr. Krümmel has lately attempted this. Soundings were wanting for the Antarctic and a part of the North Polar sea, *i. e.*, about 475,000 square miles, or seven per cent. of the entire sea surface, so that he gives his estimate only as a closer approximation. He estimates then the mean depth of the sea as 1,877 fathoms, or 3,432 metres, or 0.4624 geographical mile. It was natural to compare the mean height of dry land above the sea-level. Humboldt's estimate of 308 metres is regarded as quite out of date. Leipoldt has since estimated the mean height of Europe as 300 metres. Accepting this number for Europe, 500 for Asia and Africa, 330 for America, and 250 for Australia, Dr. Krümmel obtains the mean of 420 metres, or 0.0566 mile. The surface ratio of land to water being considered 1:2.75, the volume of all dry land above the sea-level is inferred to be 140,086 cubic miles, and the volume of the sea 3,138,000 cubic miles. Thus the ratio of the volumes of land and water is 1:22.4. That is, the continents, so far as they are above the sea-level, might be contained 22.4 times over in the sea-basin. Reckoning, however, the mass of solid land from the level of the sea-bottom the former would be contained only 2.443 times in the sea space. Dr. Krümmel also compares the masses (taking recent data); he finds that of the sea 3,229,700 cubic miles, and that of the solid land 3,211,310 (a small difference). If the specific gravity of the land were raised merely from 2.5 to 2.51432, we should thus have perfect equilibrium. Such equilibrium is probably the fact.

Col. Prejevalsky started on his Central Asian journey on the 1st of February last, Ensigns Eklon and Roborovsky and two

subordinates accompanying him. At Kuldja he will be joined by the same interpreters as were with him on his last journey, and at Zaissan by five cossacks. From here the expedition will start with thirty camels and some horses for Hami and Suh-chau, and thence proceed to the Kansu mountains. The party will next make for Lhasa by the usual route, and by February, 1880, hope to reach the Himalayas by way of the Brahmapootra river. Returning then to Lhasa he will visit Khotan, Kashgar and cross the intervening plateau to Russian Khokand. The journey is to occupy two years. He has been most fully equipped for this arduous task, the Russian Geographical Society having contributed 20,000 roubles. If he can but accomplish a third of his programme, he will have done a great service to geography.

Friedländer & Son, of Berlin, have recently commenced the publication, every two weeks, of a journal, *Naturæ Novitates*, which contains a fortnightly bibliographical list of current literature in all languages in the various departments of science.

The Royal Geographical Society has undertaken to organize a uniform system of spelling the names of places throughout the globe. A commencement has been made with Indian names. After these are tabulated and revised the society propose to turn their attention to African names. They hope finally to establish a universal set of rules applicable to all parts of the world.

We learn from the *Academy* that a Norwegian captain named Bjerkan spent the winter of 1876-7 at Möller bay, on the west side of Novaya Zemlya. His journal, containing observations from October 4th to June 11th of the temperature of the air and sea, and the direction of the winds, has been published. These records show a decided maximum of temperature in January 4.4° F. above the means of either December or February. This peculiarity is also noticeable, says the *Academy*, in all the existing records from Novaya Zemlya and in the Austrian observations on Franz Joseph Land, and is therefore not confined to the period of Capt. Bjerkan's stay. This high temperature was accompanied by prevalent southerly winds, but the absence of barometrical observations makes it impossible to say whether these winds were due to the passage of cyclones to the northward of the station in the month of January.

A small scientific expedition left Denmark in April of this year to explore portions of the coast of Greenland, their object being chiefly to examine the fiords between the Danish colonies of Holsteinborg and Egedesminde. Excursions are also to be made into the unknown regions of the interior, and scientific observations of various kinds will be taken.

The Church Missionary Society (London) have published two large wall maps of Africa for the use of lecturers. One exhibits the whole continent and the other the equatorial lake district.

A new edition of the Library Map of Africa, scale 1 : 5,977,382,

prepared by Keith Johnston, F.R.G.S., is published by Stanford (London).

A new map of Africa by the same editor, on a smaller scale, 1 : 8,420,000 has also been published by W. & A. K. Johnston (Edinburgh).

MICROSCOPY.¹

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MICROSCOPISTS.—The local committee at Buffalo have secured the use of the "Central School Building" for the sessions of this society at its meeting in that city in August. The headquarters of the officers will be at the Tift House, and local and general arrangements are being made which it is believed will be fully adequate and satisfactory. Excursion fares upon the railways and reduced hotel rates have been promised, and private hospitality will be tendered when desired. A soiree will be given under the auspices of the local microscopical society. The provisional constitution adopted at the Indianapolis meeting will come up for amendment and adoption, and all microscopists of the country are cordially invited to attend and participate in the perfecting of a permanent organization. Circulars giving full information in regard to the plans for the meeting can be obtained by addressing the secretary of the society, Dr. Henry Jameson, of Indianapolis, Indiana, or the secretary of the local committee, Mr. James W. Ward, of Buffalo, N. Y.

ROYAL MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.—With an evident desire to share its prosperity with others, this society is renewing and extending its efforts to make itself a center of influence in the cultivation of microscopical science throughout the world. Its journal, under the honorary editorship of Mr. Frank Crisp, LL.B., one of the secretaries of the society, has become a superb magazine of microscopical science. By a recent action of the society fifteen honorary fellows were elected, including Dr. J. Leidy, of Philadelphia. Nearly seventy societies, in different parts of the world, were also designated, whose presidents for the time being should be ex-officio fellows of the society. As this arrangement includes the honorary distribution of the "Journal," it is a very generous as well as very judicious action. The societies in the United States included in this arrangement are the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, of Boston, the Boston Society of Natural History, the State Microscopical Society of Illinois, the New York Academy of Sciences, the New York Microscopical Society, the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, the San Francisco Microscopical Society and the Troy Scientific Association.

NEW YORK MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.—This society has removed to its new rooms at No. 239 Fourth avenue, near Nineteenth street, where it will meet on the first and third Friday evenings

¹ This department is edited by Dr. R. H. WARD, Troy, N. Y.